



**Director of
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IRAN-IRAQ: New Attacks in South

on 23 Feb
 Iranian attacks on Iraqi positions near Al Basrah ~~yesterday~~ could prompt Baghdad to resume airstrikes on Iranian cities. Tehran claimed that it simultaneously began a new phase of guerrilla operations in northern Iraq. Baghdad announced it had stopped the attacks near Al Basrah and ~~denied~~ *stated* Iran had captured Iraqi positions in the Hawizah marsh on Sunday. Meanwhile, [redacted] Iran has deployed a launcher and radar for a Chinese-built HY-2 antiship cruise missile on Qeshm Island. [redacted]

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Comment: The Iranian attacks in the south are limited probes for Iraqi weaknesses, possibly in preparation for another offensive. Guerrilla operations may be designed to tie down Iraqi forces and complicate Baghdad's planning. Because the Iranian ground attacks violate the conditions of the cease-fire established last week, Iraq probably will resume its airstrikes on cities as it has threatened to do. The HY-2 site—which can cover most of the Strait of Hormuz—could be made operational quickly. [redacted]

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INDIA-PAKISTAN: Talks Productive

Prime Minister Gandhi and President Zia have said their discussions over the weekend cleared up misunderstandings over the recent military buildup along their border. They also reviewed other contentious issues related to border security—drug trafficking, infiltrations of terrorists, and smuggling. Gandhi told the press he hoped the two sides would “seal” their common border in an effort to deal with these problems. Zia said he considered the recent agreement to pull back troops the equivalent of a “no-war” pact. Negotiations on the second phase of troop withdrawals will begin Thursday when the Indian delegation arrives in Pakistan, according to the press. [redacted]

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Comment: The atmosphere at the meeting suggests discussions on additional troop withdrawals will be successful. An early resumption of meetings on other border issues and trade will be a further sign that both Gandhi and Zia have renewed their commitment to improving relations. Zia took full advantage of the public relations opportunities in India to promote a statesmanlike image at home—answering press questions, praying at two Muslim shrines, and cheering the Pakistani team at a cricket match. [redacted]

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